# **SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL**



November 19, 2010

Michael LoGrande City of Los Angeles John Sanabria County of Los Angeles Department of City Planning 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

#### Re: Report to the Joint Sunshine Canyon Landfill Technical Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. LoGrande and Mr. Sanabria:

In anticipation of the December 2, 2010 TAC meeting, we are providing you with a status report regarding items of interest specified by City/County Planning since the last TAC meeting of March 31, 2010.

#### **Landfill Gas Monitoring:**

The landfill gas monitoring program at SCL is accomplished by monthly monitoring of the site's 38 perimeter gas probes and quarterly surface emission monitoring. This data is used to verify the landfill gas extraction system is operating optimally. The data is reported on a quarterly basis to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) in accordance with the requirements of Rule 1150.1 and the full reports are included in the Annual Report to the TAC.

To address odor issues reported in the March 15, 2010 report to the TAC, a total of 50 vertical landfill gas extraction wells were installed in June and July 2010. The purpose of these wells is to replace existing wells that were either damaged and/or no longer functioning as intended, and also to provide vacuum to areas of the site where additional coverage was needed to control surface emissions. As part of the on-going effort to optimize the gas extraction system and control potential surface emissions, additional vertical extraction wells and horizontal collectors are presently being installed at SCL (November-December 2010).

#### **Status on Groundwater Monitoring:**

The most recent groundwater monitoring data is reported in the August 2010 Groundwater and Waste Disposal Monitoring Report. Exceedences of site water quality protection standards (WQPS) were again noted for 1,4-dioxane in samples collected from three downgradient monitoring wells and for MtBE and cis-1,2-DCE in one downgradient monitoring well. The facility continues to address these detections of 1,4-dioxane and low level VOCs in monitoring wells through quarterly monitoring and continuous pumping of water collected on the up-gradient side of the cutoff wall. The unlined closed City Landfill (Unit 1) is the likely source of these compounds. The continuous pumping of the cutoff wall system is gradually reducing the concentration of 1,4-dioxane and VOCs in the downgradient wells.

Semi-annual groundwater monitoring reports submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board are available online at <a href="www.sunshinecanyonlandfill.com">www.sunshinecanyonlandfill.com</a> under the Required Reports heading in the Regulatory/Environmental section of the website. It will also be included in the Annual Report to the TAC. Please note the SCL website is currently being upgraded and is temporarily down. These reports will be accessible once the website is operational.

#### Oak Tree Mitigation:

The 2008 wildfires resulted in the mortality of several oak trees planted for mitigation purposes. The Site retained the services of ESA to conduct a health assessment of all mitigation oak trees, and to identify trees that should be replaced. This survey was completed in April 2010, and referenced in the Annual City Oak Tree Report (July 2010).

In a meeting with the City Forester, Ron Lorenzen, a solution to the tree mortality and completion of City oak mitigation was developed. SCL agreed to plant at least 200 oaks to replace "dead" or "poor" trees and continue monitoring City oak mitigation for 6-9 months. At the end of this period, a final report will be produced and mitigation on the project will be finished so long as a total 936 oak trees are surviving in "good"-"fair" health. The replacement trees were planted and an irrigation system installed during the weeks of October 21 to November 8, 2010.

### **Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Ethanol Gas Usage:**

SCL continues to fuel the E-85 vehicles with Ethanol 85 on average, every week at a fueling station located at 11699 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles, California. Currently the site owns and operates thirteen vehicles that use E-85 fuel.

According to SCL's research, there have been no advancements in technology for alternative fuel heavy machinery. No alternative fuel light-duty vehicles or heavy machinery have been purchased since the last update

#### **Revegetation Areas:**

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) continues to vegetate both interim and permanent slopes. Updates on all revegetation efforts are provided quarterly in a report that includes maps and descriptions of the type of work done each quarter.

At the present time the only permanent slopes are City and County Sage mitigation areas. The County sage slope is in its third year of maintenance and monitoring, and as previously discussed, the County Sage Slope test plots and salt-tolerant potted plants studies are still active and on-going. The City Sage project continues to be monitored and maintained while the site waits for the proper approvals for importing soil onto the compacted areas. Once approvals have been obtained, the site will initiate technical work on City Sage immediately. A weed abatement event began on November 1, 2010, and will be completed during the week of November 15, 2010.

Several semi-permanent slopes also exist onsite, known as the Phase V area. These are cut slopes that may ultimately be changed as the landfill height increases. However, since the slopes will be long-term in nature, they have been treated with a sage based seed mix and erosions control measures such as jute matting and horizontal straw waddles to encourage growth on the very steep cut slopes. The Phase V area is also indicated on the attached map (Attachment A).

# Relocation of Leachate and Condensate Treatment Plants

In March 2010, the discharge of condensate and leachate to the City sewer system terminated due to a break in the sewer line in a section crossing private property south of SCL. A temporary system was installed near the front gate of the site to treat leachate with activated carbon. Condensate was collected in a storage tank and taken off-site from April through June until an on-site treatment system could be installed. In late June 2010, SCL installed a temporary condensate treatment system under permit from SCAQMD to process condensate for on-site recycling. At this point in time, all site liquids are processed on-site for recycling. The original plan of treating both leachate and condensate in the system by the front gate was revised in late July due to a finding that prohibits the treatment of condensate within 500 feet of the site's property boundary.

The following actions are presently being implemented for the treatment of leachate and condensate:

- Leachate is being treated on-site using an activated carbon system under the new SCAQMD permit issued in January 2010. The treated leachate is used for on-site dust control and irrigation water;
- Work is proceeding on the installation of the permanent leachate treatment facility (LTF) near the front gate. Grading work for the new plant was completed earlier this month under an approved grading permit from the City of LA Building and Safety. The new LTF is expected to be operational in early 2011;
- The temporary condensate treatment facility has been operating under an approved SCAQMD permit and has successfully been meeting the water recycling limits since it became operational in late June 2010. The facility was relocated from the historic leachate treatment plant area to a new area near the City scalehouse to accommodate site excavation activities. SCL is in the process of obtaining the permit from SCAQMD for the permanent facility. The permit is currently under EPA review and is expected to be issued in mid-December 2010. The new treatment facility is planned to be installed and operational by March 2011. Treated condensate is also used for on-site dust control and irrigation water.

Please refer to the attached drawing for the locations of the LTF, the temporary condensate treatment system and the permanent condensate treatment system. (Attachment B)

## Chatsworth Reservoir Wetland & Riparian Mitigation Program:

During October 2010, the Santa Barbra Botanic Gardens (SBBG) started gathering and cleaning seeds which were collected at the Chatsworth Reservoir. Multiple seed collection events will be needed to meet the desired seed quantity and species type that will be planted in the upcoming years. The SBBG has developed a nursery where the seeds will be kept and eventually grown for future plantings at the mitigation site.

A Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and Human Health Screening Evaluation (HHSE) for the project area conducted by Kleinfelder West, Inc. in 2010 on behalf of DWP analyzed 150 soil samples for metals, volatile organic compounds, and radionuclides. The likelihood of adverse health effects was assessed by comparison of maximum and 95% upper confidence limit (95UCL) of the mean concentrations to health-based screening levels developed by Cal/EPA and federal EPA. Although the ESA concluded that three metals (arsenic, cadmium and vanadium) and two radionuclides (strontium-90

and potassium-40) were present in site soils at concentrations that exceeded health-based screening levels, these constituents were not considered to pose a health hazard.

The Chatsworth Reservoir Mitigation Plan was subsequently approved by the resource agencies, but required CEQA review through the City of L.A. Under the direction of the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks (CEQA Lead Agency), a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the project which is expected to be approved by the L.A. Recreation and Parks Board of Commissioners and the L.A. City Council early in 2011. The project is scheduled for construction in the late summer of 2011.

# Report on new CC-II Development Activity at SCL, Including Permits Required Prior to Development:

This site is currently conducting geological mapping and investigation in the future cell development area. We are also collecting background information and preparing a design report including project plans and specifications. These findings will be submitted to regulatory agencies by the end of 2010 or early 2011, and the site anticipates approvals by February 2011 and start of liner construction by March of 2011.

## **Odor Mitigation Plan in Compliance with County and AQMD Requirements:**

In response to Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' request, SCL prepared and submitted an Odor Mitigation Plan for DPW approval on October 27, 2010. The plan contained a summary of the implementation status of mitigation measures specified in South Coast Air Quality Management District's Order for Abatement. It also contained a plan to conduct odor patrols hourly from 6 am to 10 am Monday through Saturday, and during times of adverse wind, in the neighborhood south of the landfill. This is an increase over the previous voluntary odor patrols conducted on weekday mornings. Lastly the Plan contained a summary of the gas migration monitoring program and compliance status of gas monitoring activities. Existing and planned measures for preventative maintenance of the gas well network (including erosion prevention in wet weather) were outlined. Though approval of the Plan has not been received as of November 19, 2010, the new odor patrol procedures have begun and work on the gas systems is proceeding as noted.

#### **Status On Condition Q.C.2.E.**

The site has not received notification from the Bureau of Sanitation as of 11-19-10, but has been in contact multiple times requesting it be sent. The site will proceed with payment on Condition Q.C.2E. once proper notification has been received. Two prior payments were made in 2007 and 2008, and the next payment was to occur in 2010.

Prior payments have been made as follows:

- 8/17/07 in the amount of \$49,064.17
- 8/07/08 in the amount of \$42,165.46

Please contact me at (818)-833-6504 to discuss the contents of this report, if needed.

Sincerely,

Kuft Brattón General Manager

Cc: Linn Wyatt, City Planning

Ly Lam, City Planning

Maria Masis, LA County Regional Planning Linda Lee, County Department of Public Works

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